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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of

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THOMAS L. WELSH,
GLENN E. BURKET,
and JOSEPH E. DICK

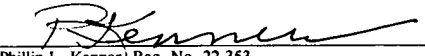
Serial No. 09/975,917

Filed: October 10, 2001

For: CONNECTOR AND METHOD
OF MANUFACTURE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of this Information Disclosure Statement was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Box DD, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, this 10th day of January, 2002.


Phillip L. Kenner, Reg. No. 22,353

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97 encouraging the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants submit the following in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.56.

Information or art known to the Applicants and having an extent of relevance to the present application has been listed on PTO Form 1449 attached hereto. It includes twenty-four (24) United States patents and three (3) foreign patents (copies attached). Applicants have employed PTO Form 1449 for the purpose of convenience of the Office and the Examiner.

No representation is made that a search has been made, that the information is pertinent to the claimed subject matter, or that the information represents the only or the best information. The Applicants do not admit that any of the information they have provided is necessarily prior to their invention but rather that it is information of which they are aware and which they believe possibly should be provided to the Office in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure.

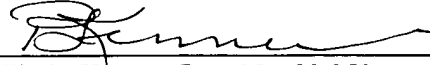
It is submitted that none of the art provided herein achieves the objects and advantages of the present invention. Applicants believe that the claims of the subject application are patentably distinguishable over the art submitted herewith. The

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consideration of these documents in conjunction with the Examiner's search and prosecution is requested as contemplated by the rules hereinabove referenced.

Respectfully submitted,



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